

(one-half of such amount in the case of a taxpayer whose tax is determined under section 1(c) for the taxable year):

<i>"If the household income (expressed as a percent of poverty line) is:</i>	<i>The applicable dollar amount is:</i>
<i>Less than 200% .....</i>	<i>\$600</i>
<i>At least 200% but less than 250% .....</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>At least 250% but less than 300% .....</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>At least 300% but less than 350% .....</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>At least 350% but less than 400% .....</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>
<i>At least 400% but less than 450% .....</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>At least 450% but less than 500% .....</i>	<i>\$3,500".</i>

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 36B(f)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by inserting "in the table contained" after "each of the dollar amounts".

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

#### **SEC. 209. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

(b) **EMERGENCY DESIGNATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.**—In the House of Representatives, this Act, with the exception of section 101, is designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles.

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to extend certain expiring provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

#### **TAX COMPROMISE**

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I was glad I had a chance to hear the Senators from Colorado and Oklahoma. I congratulate the Senator from Colorado on his reelection and look forward to working with him. He mentioned the importance of working across party lines. One area where we have the chance to do that, and where he can make an especially significant contribution, is in the area of fixing No Child Left Behind, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He has a lot of experience, earned the hard way on the ground, in that area. He is on the relevant committees, and I look forward to working with him.

Second, I join the Senator from Colorado in support for the tax plan agreed upon by the President and the Democratic and Republican leaders.

I have noticed that over the last two days, a large number of the news stories are about who wins and who gets political points for this tax agreement. I think the story is: the American people win. The focus of this Congress should be how to make it easier and cheaper to create private sector jobs. Virtually every economist who has come before us, either called by Democratic Senators or Republican Senators, has said raising taxes on anybody in the middle of an economic downturn makes it harder to create private sector jobs.

This tax agreement, which would stop the automatic increase of taxes for tens of millions of Americans, makes it easier and cheaper to create private sector jobs. So does the provision to provide 100 percent expensing for businesses. What that means is, companies that buy equipment in the next year can immediately deduct those costs. There is also a provision giving working people in this country during the next year a reduction by about one-third in what they pay on the payroll tax. That will mean these workers have more money in their pockets and perhaps they will spend it and perhaps that will help the economy grow as well.

In addition, there is the provision to give some certainty to the estate tax. Some want zero tax, some want 100 percent tax. But this comes to a common, reasonable decision for 2 years. No one on the Republican side of the aisle is completely happy with this agreement. We want the tax rates permanently extended where they are today or at least to not let them get higher. We believe that short-term decisions about taxes don't create the kind of certainty that does the best job of helping to create private sector jobs.

We welcome the fact that the President of the United States has accepted this as a part of an agreement, and at the same time, he has gotten the priority that he put a high goal on, which was the extension of unemployment compensation. Republicans don't like to see that passed in a way that adds to the debt. So we have some Democrats who don't like everything in the bill and also some Republicans who don't.

We have something we have not seen very much of for the last two years. Instead of "we won the election, so we will write the bill," we have a different attitude: Let's sit down and talk and see what we can do for the good of the country. I think this will not only result in the tax bill being passed, I think it will result in it being accepted by the people of this country. I think it will help build confidence in our economic growth. I think it will help build confidence in the ability of our government to function and deal with big problems.

I congratulate the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate and the House and the President for bringing the agreement this far. We have a ways to go; it is not decided yet. But it is a good step in the right direction. Instead of scoring political points, for a change, I think we are trying to score some points for the American people. When they get their paychecks in the middle of January and see the lower withholding and when they find out the amount of taxes they are not going to have to pay in a tax increase, I think they are going to be grateful.

Today, I was thinking that a Tennessee small businessperson looking at next year might say: Well, they are not going to raise my taxes and take the money my company earned and give it

to the government. Maybe I will spend some of that money to hire somebody or spend some of that money for new equipment since they will let me deduct those costs. Maybe I will go ahead and do that this year instead of over the next 2, 3, 4, or 5 years. Maybe that will help my business grow, and maybe I will hire somebody new.

Maybe it will say to the people who work at that company: I am going to have a little more money in my pocket, I will go out and spend it, and maybe I will buy some of the goods made in other small businesses and the economy will grow.

There is no doubt this adds to the deficit, but there are two ways to reduce the deficit. One is to reduce spending, which we must do. We have an opportunity to deal with that, as the Senator from Oklahoma talked about. The other way is to create new revenues, and the way you do that is economic growth.

This bill will help make it easier and cheaper to create private sector jobs. That is economic growth. That helps reduce the deficit.

I congratulate Senator COBURN, who spoke before the Senator from Colorado. Senator COBURN, Senator CRAPO, Senator GREGG, Senator CONRAD, and Senator DURBIN, the majority whip, all voted for the debt commission report. That was a courageous act on behalf of all five of them. It is one thing to go around the country saying we need to reduce the debt; it is another thing to take on a wide-ranging proposal that actually does that because it is very painful. You can't just say we are going to get rid of earmarks, which don't save a penny. You can't just say we are going to focus on discretionary spending, other than that which affects defense, which is 15 percent of the budget. You have to deal with things such as national defense and Social Security, and you have to deal with Medicare and Medicaid.

It is true the debt commission report didn't do as much on entitlements as I would like it to do. I am proud of the members of the commission. They have given us a serious proposal and I intend to take it seriously. I intend to do my best to support as many of its provisions as possible, so we can take a step forward, not just in creating private sector jobs but in attacking our other major goal, which is reducing spending so we can reduce the debt.

#### **THE BAHAI FAITH AND ABUSE OF ITS LEADERS IN IRAN**

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have one other comment I would like to make while I am here. It involves the Baha'i faith and the abuse of its leaders in Iran.

I rise today to discuss an issue that some constituents of mine brought to